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The Charter of Dartmouth College.

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THE

CHARTER

OF

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.

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At a meeting of the Trustees of Dartmouth College, on the 28th day of September, A. D. 1815, being an adjourned session of the Annual meeting of the said Trustees, holden at said College on the fourth Wednesday of September, A. D. 1815—

VOTED—That Tho's W. Thompson, Sec'ry pro tem. of this board, be requested to cause a correct copy of the Charter of the College to be prepared for the press; and that he carefully compare the said copy with the original, and annex his official certificate to the same.

A true copy.

Attest, THO. W. THOMPSON, *Sec'y pro tem.*

CHARTER OF

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.

GEORGE the THIRD by the grace of GOD of Great-Britain France and Ireland KING Defender of the Faith and so forth.

To all to whom these Presents shall come. GREETING.

WHEREAS it hath been represented to our trusty and well-beloved JOHN WENTWORTH Esq Governor and Commander in Chief in and over our province of New Hampshire in New England in America, that the Reverend ELEAZER WHEELOCK of Lebanon in the colony of Connecticut in New England aforesaid, now Doctor in divinity, did on or about the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty four at his own expence, on his own estate and plantation set on foot an INDIAN CHARITY SHCOOL and for several years through the assistance of well disposed persons in America, cloathed, maintained and educated a number of the Children of the Indian Natives with a view to their carrying the Gospel in their own Language and spreading the Knowledge of the great REDEEMER among their Savage Tribes, and hath actually employ'd a number of them as Missionaries and School Masters in the Wilderness for that purpose: And by the blessing of GOD upon the endeavours of said WHEELOCK the design became reputable among the Indians insomuch that a larger number desired the Education of their Children in said SCHOOL, and were also disposed to receive Missionaries and School Masters in the Wilderness more than could be supported by the charitable Contributions in these American colonies. WHEREUPON the said ELEAZAR WHEELOCK thought it expedient that endeavours should be used to raise Contributions from well disposed Persons in England for the carrying on and extending said undertaking, And for that purpose said ELEAZAR WHEELOCK requested the Rev NATHANIEL WHITAKER now Doctor in Divinity to go over to England for that purpose, and sent over with

him the Rev. SAMSON OCCOM an Indian Minister who had been educated by the said WHEELOCK, and to enable the said WHITAKER to the more successful performance of said Work on which he was sent, said WHEELOCK gave him a full Power of Attorney by which said WHITAKER solicited those worthy and generous Contributors to the Charity viz. The Right Honorable WILLIAM Earl of DARTMOUTH, the Honorable Sir SIDNEY STAFFORD SMYTHE Knight, one of the Barons of his Majestys Court of Exchequer, JOHN THORNTON of Clapham in the County of Surrey Esquire, SAMUEL ROFFEY of Lincoln's inn-fields, in the County of Middlesex Esquires, CHARLES HARDY of the parish of Saint Mary-le-bonne in said County Esquire, DANIEL WEST of Christ's Church Spitalfields in the County aforesaid Esq're, SAMUEL SAVAGE of the same place Gentleman, JOSIAH ROBERTS of the Parish of Saint Edmund the King Lombard Street London Gentleman, and ROBERT KEEN of the Parish of Saint Batolph Aldgate London, Gentleman, to receive the several Sums of Money which should be contributed, and to be TRUSTEES for the Contributors to such Charity, which they chearfully agreed to—WHEREUPON the said WHITAKER did by virtue of said Power of Attorney constitute and appoint the said Earl of DARTMOUTH, Sir SIDNEY SAFFORD SMYTH, JOHN THORNTON, SAMUEL ROFFEY, CHARLES HARDEY and DANIEL WEST Esquires, and SAMUEL SAVAGE JOSIAH ROBERTS and ROBERT KEEN Gentlemen to be TRUSTEES of the Money which had then been contributed, and which should by his means be contributed for said Purpose; which Trust they have accepted as by their engrossed Declarations of the same under their Hands and Seals well executed fully appears, and the same has also been ratified by a deed of Trust well executed by the said WHEELOCK,—AND the said WHEELOCK further represents that he has by power of Attorney for many weighty reasons, given full power to the said TRUSTEES to fix upon and determine the place for said SCHOOL most subservient to the great end in view; and to enable them understandingly to give the preference, the said WHEELOCK has laid before the said TRUSTEES the several Offers which have been generously made in the several Governments in America to encourage and invite the settlement of said SCHOOL among them for their own private emolument and the increase of Learning in their respective places as well as for the furtherance of the general de-

sign in view. And whereas a large number of the Proprietors of Lands in the western part of this our Province of New Hampshire, animated and excited thereto by the generous example of his Excellency their Governor and by the liberal Contributions of many Noblemen and Gentlemen in England; and especially by the consideration that such a situation would be as convenient as any for carrying on the great design among the Indians; and also considering that without the least impedement to the said design the same School may be enlarged and improved to promote Learning among the English, and be a means to supply a great number of Churches and Congregations which are likely soon to be formed in that new Country with a learned and orthodox Ministry; they the said Proprietors have promised large Tracts of Land for the uses aforesaid, provided the School shall be settled in the western part of our said Province. And they the said Right Honorable, Honorable and worthy TRUSTEES before mentioned having maturely consider'd the reasons and arguments in favor of the several Places proposed, have given the preference to the western part of our said Province lying on Connecticut River, as a situation most convenient for said School; and the said WHEELOCK has further represented a necessity of a legal Incorporation in order to the safety and well being of said Seminary, and its being capable of the tenure and disposal of Lands and bequests for the use of the same. And the said WHEELOCK has also represented that for many weighty reasons it will be expedient at least in the infancy of said Institution or till it can be accommodated in that new Country and he and his Friends be able to remove and settle by and round about it, that the Gentlemen whom he has already nominated in his last Will (which he has transmitted to the aforesaid Gentlemen of the Trust in England) to be TRUSTEES in America should be of the Corporation now proposed and also as there are already large Collections for said School in the hands of the aforesaid Gentlemen of the Trust in England and all reason to believe from their singular wisdom, piety and Zeal to promote the REDEEMER's cause (which has already procured for them the utmost confidence of the Kingdom) we may expect they will appoint Successors in time to come who will be men of the same Spirit whereby great good may and will accrue many ways to the institution and much be done by their example and influence to encourage and facilitate the whole design in view: for which reason said WHEELOCK desires that the TRUSTEES aforesaid may be vested with all that power there-

in which can consist with their distance from the same.— KNOW YE THEREFORE, THAT WE considering the premises and being willing to encourage the laudable and charitable design of spreading Christian Knowledge among the Savages of our American Wilderness and also that the best means of Education be established in our Province of New Hampshire for the benefit of said province, DO of our special grace certain Knowledge and mere motion by and with the advice of our Council for said Province by these Presents will, ordain, grant and constitute that there be a College erected in our said Province of New Hampshire by the name of DARTMOUTH COLLEGE for the education and instruction of Youth of the Indian Tribes in this Land in reading, writing and all parts of Learning which shall appear necessary and expedient for civilizing and christianizing Children of Pagans as well as in all liberal Arts and Sciences; and also of English Youth and any others, And the TRUSTEES of said COLLEGE may and shall be one body corporate and politick in deed action and name, and shall be called, named and distinguished by the Name of the TRUSTEES OF DARTMOUTH COLLFGE. AND further we have willed given granted constituted and ordained and by this our present Charter of our special grace certain Knowledge and mere motion with the advice aforesaid DO for US our Heirs and Successors forever will give grant constitute and ordain that there shall be in the said Dartmouth College from henceforth and forever a body politick consisting of TRUSTEES OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE And for the more full and perfect erection of said Corporation and body politic consisting of TRUSTEES OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE WE of our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion DO by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors make ordain constitute and appoint our trusty and well beloved JOHN WENTWORTH Esquire Governor of our said Province and the Governor of our said Province of New Hampshire for the time being and our Trusty and well beloved THEODORE ATKINSON Esquire now President of our Council of our said Province GEORGE JAFFREY and DANIEL PEIRCE Esquires both of our said Council and PETER GILMAN Esquire now Speaker of our House of Representatives in said Province and WILLIAM PITKIN Esquire one of the Assistants of our Colony of Connecticut and our said trusty and well beloved ELEAZAR WHEELOCK of Lebanon Doctor in Divinity, BENJAMIN POMROY of Hebron JAMES LOCKWOOD of Weathers-

field TIMOTHY PITKIN and JOHN SMALLEY of Farmington and WILLIAM PATTEN of Hartford all of our said Colony of Connecticut Ministers of the Gospel, (the whole number of said TRUSTEES consisting and hereafter forever to consist of twelve and no more) to be TRUSTEES of said DARTMOUTH COLLEGE in this our Province of New-Hampshire And WE do further of our special grace certain Knowledge and mere motion for US our Heirs and Successors will give grant and appoint that the said TRUSTEES and their Successors shall forever hereafter be in deed act and name a body corporate and politic and that they the said body corporate and politic shall be known and distinguished in all deeds grants bargains sales writings evidences or otherwise howsoever and in all courts forever hereafter plead and be impleaded by the name of THE TRUSTEES OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE and that the said Corporation by the name aforesaid shall be able and in law capable for the use of said DARTMOUTH COLLEGE to have get acquire purchase receive hold possess and enjoy tenements hereditaments jurisdictions and franchises for themselves and their successors in fee simple or otherwise howsoever and to purchase receive or build any house or houses or any other buildings as they shall think needful and convenient for the use of said DARTMOUTH COLLEGE and in such town in the western part of our said Province of New-Hampshire as shall by said TRUSTEES or the major part of them be agreed on their said agreement to be evidenced by an instrument in writing under their hands ascertaining the same And also to receive and dispose of any Lands goods chattles and other things of what nature soever for the use aforesaid And also to have accept and receive any rents profits annuities gifts legacies donations or bequests of any kind whatsoever for the use aforesaid so nevertheless that the yearly value of the premises do not exceed the sum of six thousand pounds Sterling and therewith or otherwise to support and pay as the said TRUSTEES or the major part of such of them as are regularly convened for that purpose shall agree the President Tutors and other Officers and Ministers of said DARTMOUTH COLLEGE and also to pay all such Missionaries and School masters as shall be authorized appointed and employed by them for civilizing and christianizing and instructing the Indian Natives in this Land their several allowances and also their respective annual Salaries or allowances and all such necessary and contingent charges as from time to time shall arise and accrue relating to the said

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE And also to bargain sell let or assign lands tenements or hereditaments goods or chattels and all other things whatsoever by the name aforesaid in as full and ample a manner to all intents and purposes as a natural person or other body politic or corporate is able to do by the laws of our realm of Great Britain or of said province of New Hampshire And further of our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion to the intent that our said Corporation and body politic may answer the end of their erection and Constitution and may have perpetual succession and continuance forever WE DO for US our Heirs and Successors will give and grant unto the said TRUSTEES OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE and to their Successors forever that there shall be once a year and every Year a meeting of said TRUSTEES held at said DARTMOUTH COLLEGE at such time as by said Trustees or the major part of them at any legal meeting of said Trustees shall be agreed on the first meeting to be called by the said ELEAZAR WHEELOCK as soon as conveniently may be within one year next after the enrollment of these our Letters Patent at such time and place as he shall judge proper And the said Trustees or the major part of any seven or more of them shall then determine on the time for holding the annual Meeting aforesaid which may be alter'd as they shall hereafter find most convenient And WE do further order and direct that the said ELEAZAR WHEELOCK shall notify the time for holding said first meeting to be called as aforesaid by sending a letter to each of said Trustees and causing an advertisement thereof to be printed in the New Hampshire Gazette and in some public News Paper printed in the Colony of Connecticut But in case of the Death or incapacity of the said WHEELOCK then such meeting to be notified in manner as aforesaid by the Governor or Commander in Chief of our said Province for the time being AND WE do also for US our Heirs and successors hereby will give and grant unto the said Trustees of Dartmouth College aforesaid and to their successors forever that when any seven or more of the said Trustees or their Successors are convened and met together for the service of said Dartmouth College at any time or times such seven or more shall be capable to act as fully and amply to all intents and purposes as if all the Trustees of said College were personally present—and all affairs and actions whatsoever under the care of the said Trustees shall be determined by the majority or greater number of those seven or more Trustees so convened and met together AND WE do further will ordain

and direct that the President Trustees Professors and Tutors and all such Officers as shall be appointed for the public instruction and government of said College shall before they undertake the execution of their respective Offices or Trusts or within one year after take the oaths and subscribe the declaration provided by an act of Parliament made in the first year of King George the first entitled "An act for the further security of his Majesty's Person and Government and the succession of the Crown in the heirs of the late princess Sophia being Protestants and for the extinguishing the hopes of the pretended Prince of Wales and his open and secret Abettors" that is to say the President before the Governor of our said Province for the time being or by one by him empowered to that service or by the President of our said Council and the Trustees Professors Tutors and other Officers before the President of said College for the time being who is hereby impower'd to administer the same an entry of all which shall be made in the Records of said College AND WE DO for US our Heirs and Successors hereby will give and grant full Power and Authority to the President hereafter by Us named and to his Successors or in case of his failure to any three or more of the said Trustees to appoint other occasional meetings from time to time of the said seven Trustees or any greater number of them to transact any matter or thing necessary to be done before the next annual meeting and to order notice to the said seven or any greater number of them of the times and places of meeting for the service aforesaid by a letter under his or their hands of the same one month before said meeting Provided always that no standing Rule or order be made or altered for the regulation of said College or any President or Professor be chosen or displaced nor any other matter or thing transacted or done which shall continue in force after the then next annual meeting of said Trustees as aforesaid AND further WE do by these presents for US our Heirs and Successors create make constitute nominate and appoint our Trusty and well beloved ELEAZAR WHEELOCK Doctor in Divinity the Founder of said College to be President of said Dartmouth College and to have the immediate care of the Education and government of such Students as shall be admitted into said Dartmouth College for instruction and education and do will give and grant to him in said office full power authority and right to nominate appoint constitute and ordain by his last will such suitable and meet person or persons as he shall chuse to succeed him in the Presidency of said Dartmouth College and

the person so appointed by his last Will to continue in Office vested with all the powers privileges Jurisdiction and authority of a President of said Dartmouth College that it is to say so long and until such appointment by said last Will shall be disapproved by the Trustees of said Dartmouth College AND WE do also for us our heirs and Successors will give and grant to the said Trustees of Dartmouth College and to their Successors forever or any seven or more of them convened as aforesaid that in case of the ceasing or failure of a President by any means whatsoever that the said Trustees do elect nominate and appoint such qualified person as they or the major part of any seven or more of them convened for that purpose as above directed shall think fit to be President of said Dartmouth College and to have the care of the education and government of the Students as aforesaid and in case of the ceasing of a President as aforesaid the Senior Professor or Tutor being one of the Trustees shall exercise the office of a President until the Trustees shall make choice of and appoint a President as aforesaid and such Professor or Tutor or any three or more of the Trustees shall immediately appoint a meeting of the body of the Trustees for the purpose aforesaid And also WE do will give and grant to the said Trustees convened as aforesaid that they elect nominate and appoint so many Tutors and Professors to assist the President in the Education and government of the Students belonging thereto as they the said Trustees shall from time to time and at any time think needful and serviceable to the interests of said Dartmouth College And also that the said Trustees or their Successors or the major part of any seven or more of them convened for that purpose as above directed shall at any time displace and discharge from the service of said Dartmouth College any or all such officers and elect others in their room and stead as before directed And also that the said Trustees or their Successors or the major part of any seven of them which shall convene for that purpose as above directed do from time to time as occasion shall require elect constitute and appoint a Treasurer a Clerk an Usher and a Steward for the said Dartmouth College and appoint to them and each of them their respective businesses and trust and displace and discharge from the service of said College such Treasurer Clerk Usher or Steward and to elect others in their room and stead which officers so elected as before directed WE do for Us our heirs and successors by these Presents constitute and establish in their respective Offices and do give to each and every of them full power and Authority to exercise the same in said

Dartmouth College according to the directions and during the pleasure of the said Trustees as fully and freely as any like Officers in any of our Universities Colleges or Seminaries of Learning in our Realm of Great Britain lawfully may or ought to do, And also that the said Trustees or their successors or the major part of any seven or more of them which shall convene for that purpose as is above directed as often as one or more of said Trustees shall die or by removal or otherwise shall according to their judgment become unfit or incapable to serve the interests of said College do as soon as may be after the Death removal or such unfitness or incapacity of such Trustee or Trustees elect and appoint such Trustee or Trustees as shall supply the place of him or them so dying or becoming incapable to serve the interests of said College and every Trustee so elected and appointed shall by virtue of these Presents and such election and appointment be vested with all the Powers and privileges which any of the other Trustees of said College are hereby vested with And WE do further will ordain and direct that from and after the expiration of Two years from the enrollment of these Presents such vacancy or vacancies as may or shall happen by death or otherwise in the aforesaid number of Trustees shall be filled up by election as aforesaid so that when such vacancy or vacancies shall be filled up unto the complete number of Twelve Trustees eight of the aforesaid whole number of the body of Trustees shall be resident and respectable Freeholders of our said Province of New-Hampshire and seven of said whole number shall be Laymen AND WE do further of our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion will give and grant unto the said Trustees of Dartmouth College that they and their Successors or the major part of any seven of them which shall convene for that purpose as is above directed may make and they are hereby fully impowered from time to time fully and lawfully to make and establish such Ordinances Orders and Laws as may tend to the good and wholesome government of the said College and all the Students and the several Officers and Ministers thereof and to the public benefit of the same not repugnant to the Laws and Statutes of our Realm of Great Britain or of this our Province of New-Hampshire and not excluding any Person of any religious denomination whatsoever from free and equal liberty and advantage of Education or from any of the liberties and privileges or immunities of the said College on account of his or their speculative sentiments in Religion and of his or their being of a

religious profession different from the said Trustees of the said Dartmouth College And such Ordinances orders and Laws which shall as aforesaid be made WE do by these presents for Us our Heirs and Successors ratify allow of and confirm as good and effectual to oblige and bind all the Students and the several Officers and Ministers of said College And WE do hereby authorise and impower the said Trustees of Dartmouth College and the President Tutors and Professors by them elected and appointed as aforesaid to put such ordinances laws and orders in execution to all proper intents and purposes AND WE do further of our special grace certain Knowledge and mere motion Will give and grant unto the said Trustees of said Dartmouth College for the encouragement of Learning and animating the Students of said College to diligence and industry and a laudable progress in Literature that they and their Successors or the major part of any seven or more of them convened for that purpose as above directed do by the President of said College for the time being or any other deputed by them give and grant any such degree or degrees to any of the Students of the said College or any others by them thought worthy thereof as are usually granted in either of the Universities or any other College in our Realm of Great Britain and that they sign and seal Diplomas or certificates of such Graduations to be kept by the Graduates as perpetual memorials and testimonials thereof AND WE do further of our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion for Us our Heirs and Successors by these Presents give and grant unto the Trustees of said Dartmouth College and to their Successors that they and their Successors shall have a common Seal under which they may pass all Diplomas or Certificates of degrees and all other affairs and business of and concerning the said College which shall be ingraven in such a form and with such an inscription as shall be devised by the said Trustees for the time being or by the major part of any seven or more of them convened for the service of the said College as is above directed AND WE do further for Us our Heirs and Successors give and grant unto the said Trustees of the said Dartmouth College and their Successors or to the major part of any seven or more of them convened for the service of the said College full power and authority from time to time to nominate and appoint all other Officers and Ministers which they shall think convenient and necessary for the service of the said College not herein particularly named or mentioned which officers and Ministers we do hereby impow-

er to execute their Offices and Trusts as fully and freely as any of the officers and ministers in our Universities or Colleges in our Realm of Great Britain lawfully may or ought to do AND further that the generous Contributors to the support of this design of spreading the knowledge of the only true GOD and SAVIOUR among the American Savages may from time to time be satisfied that their liberalities are faithfully disposed of in the best manner for that purpose and that others may in future time be encouraged in the exercise of the like liberality for promoting the same pious design it shall be the duty of the President of the said Dartmouth College and of his Successors annually or as often as he shall be thereunto desired or required to transmit to the Right Honorable Honorable and worthy Gentlemen of the Trust in England beforementioned a faithful account of the improvement and disbursements of the several Sums he shall receive from the Donations and bequests made in England through the hands of said Trustees and also advise them of the general plans laid and prospects exhibited as well as a faithful account of all remarkable occurrences in order if they shall think expedient that they may be published And this to continue so long as they shall perpetuate their Board of Trust and there shall be any of the Indian Natives remaining to be proper Objects of that Charity AND lastly our express will and pleasure is and WE do by by these Presents for Us our heirs and Successors give and grant unto the said Trustees of Dartmouth College and to their Successors forever that these our Letters patent or the enrollment thereof in the Secretarys Office of our Province of New Hampshire aforesaid shall be good and effectual in the Law to all intents and purposes against us our heirs and Successors without any other Licence Grant or Confirmation from us our heirs and successors hereafter by the said Trustees to be had and obtained notwithstanding the not writing or misrecital not naming or misnaming the aforesaid Offices Franchises privileges immunities or other the premises or any of them and notwithstanding a writ of ad quod damnum hath not issued forth to enquire of the premises or any of them before the ensealing hereof any Statute Act Ordinance or provision or any other matter or thing to the contrary notwithstanding TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the privileges advantages liberties immunities and all other the premises herein and hereby granted and given or which are meant mentioned or intended to be herein and hereby given and granted unto them the said Trustees of Dartmouth College and to their successors

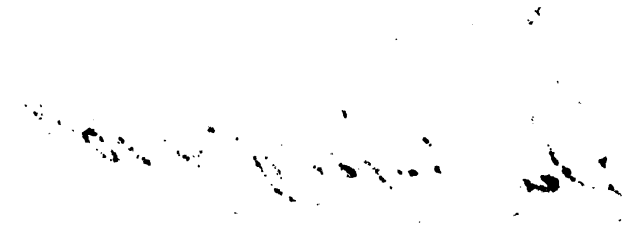
forever In TESTIMONY whereof WE have caused these our Letters to be made Patent and the public Seal of our said Province of New Hampshire to be hereunto affixed WITNESS our Trusty and well beloved JOHN WENTWORTH Esquire Governor and Commander in Chief in and over our said Province &c this Thirteenth day of December in the Tenth year of our Reign and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty nine.

(L. S.) J. WENTWORTH.

By his Excellency's command with the advice of Council.
THEODORE ATKINSON, *Sec'y.*

THE foregoing is an exact transcript of the Charter of Dartmouth College. It will be seen that there is no little deficiency in the punctuation, and no division into sentences and sections; but in these, as in other, respects, the above copy conforms to the original.

Attest THO. W. THOMPSON,
Sec'ry pro tem. of the Trustees of Dartmouth College.



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